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VIRGINIA:
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        IN THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
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         VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS AND ENERGY
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                     VIRGINIA GAS AND OIL BOARD
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   JANUARY 16, 2001
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   APPEARANCES:
13 DENNIS GARBIS, PUBLIC MEMBER
   MASON BRENT, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GAS & OIL INDUSTRY
14 BENNY WAMPLER, CHAIRMAN
   MAX LEWIS, PUBLIC MEMBER
15 CLYDE KING, PUBLIC MEMBER
16 SANDRA RIGGS, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
   BOB WILSON, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF GAS & OIL AND
17
   PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE TO THE STAFF OF THE BOARD
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1						
2			TNDEW			
3	INDEX					
4		NDA AND DOCKET NUMBERS: VGOB-00-11/21-0845		UNIT CNR-24068	PAGE 4	
5						
6		VGOB-00-11/21-0846 (Withdrawn)		V-4336		
7	3)	VGOB-00-11/21-0848 (Continued)		VC-4527		
8						
9	4)	VGOB-95-04/18-0499-04		W-29	24	
10					30	
11	5)	VGOB-95-04/18-0502-04		W-30	26	
12						
13	6)	VGOB-98-06/16-0670		VC-3169	20	
14	7)	VGOB-00-12/19-0851		YYY-21		
15		(Continued)				
16	8)	VGOB-01-01/16-0852 (Combined Items 8-13)		AV-111	40	
17						
18	9)	VGOB-01-01/16-0853 (Combined Items 8-13)		AV-112	40	
19	10)	VGOB-01-01/16-0854 (Combined Items 8-13)		AV-113	40	
20	((
21	11)	VGOB-01-01/16-0856 (Combined Items 8-13)		AW-112	40	
22	(C					
23	12)	VGOB-01-01/16-0857		AW-113	40	
24						

~ -

1		(Combined Items 8-13)			
2	13)	VGOB-01-01/16-0859 (Combined Items 8-13)	AX-114	40	
3	1 1 \		G 15		
4	1 4)	VGOB-01-01/16-0861 (Continued)	C-15		
5					
6	15)	VGOB-01-01/16-0862 (Continued)	C-16		
7					
8	16)	VGOB-01-01/16-0863 (Continued)	D-15		
9	1		- 16		
10	17)	VGOB-01-01/16-0864 (Combined Items 17-20)	D-16	56	
11					
12	18)	VGOB-01-01/16-0866 (Combined Items 17-20)	E-15	56	
13					
14	19)	VGOB-01-01/16-0867 (Combined Items 17-20)	E-16	56	
15	00)	TIGOD 01 01/16 0060	D 10	Г.	
16	20)	VGOB-01-01/16-0868 (Combined Items 17-20)	E-17	56	
17					
18	****AGENDA ATTACHED				
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					

- 1 BENNY WAMPLER: We'll go ahead and get started.
- 2 Good morning. My name is Benny Wampler. I'm Deputy Director
- 3 for the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and Chairman
- 4 of the Gas and Oil Board; and I'll ask the Members to
- 5 introduce themselves.
- 6 MASON BRENT: My name is Mason Brent. I'm from
- 7 Richmond. I represent the Gas and Oil Industry.
- 8 MAX LEWIS: My name's Max Lewis. I'm from Buchanan
- 9 County. I represent...I'm a citizen member.
- 10 SANDRA RIGGS: I'm Sandra Riggs, with the Office of
- 11 the Attorney General, here to advise the Board.
- 12 CLYDE KING: I'm Clyde King, a public member from
- 13 Abingdon.
- BOB WILSON: I'm Bob Wilson, the Director of the
- 15 Division of Gas and Oil and Principal Executive to the Staff
- 16 of the Board.
- 17 BENNY WAMPLER: The first item on the agenda today
- 18 is the Board will consider a petition from Columbia Natural
- 19 Resources, Incorporated for pooling of conventional gas unit
- 20 identified as CNR-24068. This is docket number VGOB-00-
- 21 11/21-0845, continued from December; and we'd ask the parties
- 22 that wish to address the Board in this matter to come
- 23 forward.

- 1 JIM KISER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,
- 2 Jim Kiser on behalf of Columbia Natural Resources. Our
- 3 witnesses in this matter will be Ms. Mary Ann Fox and Mr.
- 4 Jason Blakemore. I'd ask at this time that they be sworn.
- 5 MASON BRENT: Before we get started, Mr. Chairman,
- 6 if I may, I'd must to recuse myself from this docket item.
- 7 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay.
- 8 (Witnesses are duly sworn.)
- 9 BENNY WAMPLER: The record will show there are no
- 10 others. You may proceed.

- 12 MARY ANN FOX
- 13 having been duly sworn, was examined and testified as
- 14 follows:
- 15 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 16 QUESTIONS BY MR. KISER:
- 17 Q. Ms. Fox, if you'd state your name for the
- 18 Board, who you're employed by and in what capacity?
- 19 A. Mary Ann Fox. I work with Columbia Natural
- $20\,$ Resources and I'm a land law paralegal.
- 21 Q. And do your responsibilities include the
- 22 land involved for this unit and the land in this surrounding

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23 area?

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1 A. Yes.
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- 2 Q. And are you familiar with CNR's application
- 3 for the establishment of a drilling unit and the seeking of a
- 4 pooling order for CNR well number 24068, which was dated
- 5 October the 20^{th} of 2000?
- A. Yes.
- JIM KISER: Now, since we filed that application in
- 8 October, the Board will note that before the hearing, I
- 9 passed out a new plat and mineral interest sheet which is
- 10 Exhibit A...a new Exhibit A to the application and a new
- 11 Exhibit B. If you'll compare the plat you received this
- 12 morning with the plat that was filed with the original
- 13 application, you'll see that the unit has been resurveyed and
- 14 what was originally just Tract 3 is now Tracts 3 and 4. So,
- 15 now there are eight tracts in the unit instead of seven.
- 16 There are no other changes except for all the interest slid
- 17 proportionally with the change in the survey and that's noted
- 18 on your new Exhibit B. Does anybody have any questions
- 19 regarding that?
- 20 BENNY WAMPLER: Any questions from members of the
- 21 Board?
- 22 (No audible response.)
- Q. Ms. Fox, does CNR own drilling units here?

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1 A. Yes.
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- 2 (Dennis Garbis joins the hearing.)
- 3 Q. Now, prior to filing the application, were
- 4 efforts made to contact each of the respondents listed and an
- 5 attempt to make out...to work out a voluntary lease agreement
- 6 regarding the development of the unit?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Now, what was the interest under lease to
- 9 CNR at the time that we filed the application?
- 10 A. The time that we...in October?
- 11 O. In October.
- 12 A. 91.26.
- 13 Q. And at that time we had...the unleased
- 14 interest was the 8.74%?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Now, since that time, we have picked up two
- 17 additional leases representing on a new plat exhibit what
- 18 would be Tracts 3 and 4?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. So, now what is the percentage under

- 21 lease to CNR at the time of the hearing?
- 22 A. 99.32%.
- Q. And the unleased percentage?

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1 A. Yes, .68 (inaudible).
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- Q. Okay. And that just represents Tract 7
- 3 which is the only unleased tract, which is the Buchanan
- 4 County School Board?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. Okay. We do not have any unknown heirs in
- 7 this unit?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. In your professional opinion, was due
- 10 diligence exercised to locate each of the respondents named
- 11 in Exhibit B?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And are the addresses set out in Exhibit B
- 14 to the application the last known addresses for the
- 15 respondents?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Are you requesting this Board to force pool
- 18 all the unleased interest listed in our revised Exhibit B?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Are you familiar with the fair market value
- 21 of drilling rights in the unit here and in the surrounding

- 22 area?
- 23 A. Yes.

24

-

- 1 Q. Could you advise the Board as to what those
- 2 are?
- A. \$2 delay rental, five year term, 1/8
- 4 royalty.
- 5 Q. Did you gain you gain your familiarity by
- 6 acquiring oil and gas leases and other agreements involving
- 7 the transfer of drilling rights in the unit involved here and
- 8 in the surrounding area?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. In your professional opinion, do the terms
- 11 you have testified to represent the fair market value of and
- 12 the fair and reasonable compensation to be paid for drilling
- 13 rights within this unit?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Now, as to the one party who has not
- 16 voluntarily agreed to lease, do you recommend that they be
- 17 allowed the following option with respect to their ownership
- 18 interest within the unit. One, participation; two, a cash
- 19 bonus of \$2 per net mineral acre plus a 1/8 of 8/8 royalty;
- 20 three, in lieu of a cash bonus and 1/8 of 8/8 royalty share
- 21 in the operation of the well on a carried basis as a carried
- 22 operator under the following conditions: Such carried
- 23 operator shall be entitled to his share production from the

- 1 tracts pooled accruing to his interest, exclusive of any
- 2 royalty or overriding royalty reserved in any leases,
- 3 assignments thereof or agreements relating thereto of such
- 4 tracts, but only after the proceeds applicable to his share
- 5 equal 300% of the share of the share of such costs applicable
- 6 to the interest of the carried operator of a lease tract or
- 7 portion thereof or 200% of the share of such costs applicable
- 8 to the interest of the carried operator of an unleased tract
- 9 or portion thereof?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Do you recommend that the Order provide that
- 12 any elections made by respondents be in writing and sent to
- 13 the applicant at Columbia Natural Resources, Inc., 900
- 14 Pennsylvania Avenue, P. O. Box 6070, Charleston, West
- 15 Virginia 25302, Attention: Mary Ann Fox, Regulatory.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 O. And should this be the address for all
- 18 communications with the applicant concerning the force
- 19 pooling order?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recommend that the order provide that
- 22 if no written election is properly made by a respondent, then
- 23 such respondent shall be deemed to have elected the cash

-

- 1 option in lieu of participation?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Should the unleased respondents be given
- 4 thirty days from the date that the order is executed to file
- 5 their written elections?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. If an unleased respondent elects to
- 8 participate, should they be given forty-five days to pay the
- 9 applicant for respondent's proportionate share of well costs?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Does the applicant expect that party
- 12 electing to participate to pay in advance that party's share
- 13 of completed well costs?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Should the applicant be allowed a hundred
- 16 and twenty days following the recordation date of the Board
- 17 order and thereafter annually on that date until production
- 18 is achieved to pay or tender any cash bonus becoming due
- 19 under the order?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recommend that the order provide that
- 22 if a respondent elects to participate or fails to pay their
- 23 proportionate share of well costs satisfactory to the

- 1 applicant for the payment of those costs, then their election
- 2 to participate should be treated as having been withdrawn and
- 3 void?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Do you recommend that the order provide that
- 6 where a respondent elects to participate but defaults in
- 7 regard to the payment of well costs, any cash sum becoming
- 8 payable to that respondent be paid within sixty days after
- 9 the last date on which such respondent could have paid or
- 10 made arrangements for the payment of those costs?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Okay, we do not have any unknown royalty
- 13 interest owners in this unit so there is no need for the
- 14 Board to establish a escrow account for this particular unit?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. And who should be named the operator under
- 17 any force pooling order?
- 18 A. Columbia Natural Resources, Inc.
- 19 JIM KISER: No further questions of this witness at
- 20 this time, Mr. Chairman.
- 21 BENNY WAMPLER: Any questions from members of the

- 22 Board of this witness?
- 23 (No audible response.)

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             JIM KISER: Our second witness as to operation and
   production questions is Mr. Jason Blakemore.
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                           JASON BLAKEMORE
   having been duly sworn, was examined and testified as
   follows:
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9
                         DIRECT EXAMINATION
10
   QUESTIONS BY MR. KISER:
11
                     Mr. Blakemore, if you'd state your name for
             Ο.
12
   the Board, who you're employed by and in what capacity?
13
                     My name is Jason Blakemore. I am an
14
   associate engineer for Columbia Natural Resources.
15
             0.
                     And, Mr. Blakemore, this is your first time
16
   testifying before the Virginia Gas and Oil Board. So, if you
17
   would, could you please give them a brief summary of your
18
   educational background and your employment history?
19
             Α.
                     I've received a Bachelor of Science degree
20
   in Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering at West Virginia
21
   University and I'm currently enrolled in the MBA Business
22
   Foundation Program at Marshall Graduate College and I've
23
   worked for Columbia Natural Resources for two and a half
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BENNY WAMPLER: Call your next witness.

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- 1 years as an associate engineer in the engineering department,
- 2 which my duties include: Reserve analysis for annual drilling
- 3 programs, as far as...also including oil and property
- 4 evaluation.
- JIM KISER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,
- $6\,$ I'd ask that Mr. Blakemore be accepted as an expert witness
- 7 in the matters of operations and production.
- 8 BENNY WAMPLER: Without objection.
- 9 Q. Mr. Blakemore, do your responsibilities
- 10 include the land involved in this particular prospect known
- 11 as the Haysi prospect and the surrounding area?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And you're familiar with the plan of
- 14 development for the unit here?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And what is the total depth of the proposed
- 17 well under the plan of development?
- 18 A. 5,030 feet.
- 19 Q. And is the applicant requesting to force
- $20\,$ pool any conventional gas reserves not only to include the
- 21 designated formations, but any other formations excluding

- 22 coal formations which may be between those formations
- 23 designated from the surface to the total depth drilled?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Now, the application was filed on October
- 3 the 20th of 2000 listed the estimated reserves of the unit as
- 4 405,000,000 cubic feet. Since that time, we re-evaluated the
- 5 reserve potential of the unit and I believe the estimated
- 6 reserves that we want to use at this point is 450,000,000, is
- 7 that correct?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. And are you familiar with the well costs for
- 10 the proposed well under the applicant's plan of development?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Has an AFE been reviewed and submitted to
- 13 the Board?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. Was this AFE prepared by an engineering
- 16 department knowledgeable in the preparation of AFEs and
- 17 knowledgeable in regard to well costs in this area?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Does...in your professional opinion, does
- 20 this AFE represent a reasonable estimate of the well costs
- 21 for the proposed well under the plan of development?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. At this time, could you state for the Board

- 1 both the dry hole costs and the completed well costs for
- 2 24068?
- 3 A. The dry hole costs are \$155,609 and the
- 4 completed well cost is \$271,477.
- 5 Q. The dry hole is \$155,689?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. And the completed well costs
- 8 \$271,477?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. And do these costs anticipate a
- 11 multiple completion?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Does your AFE include a reasonable charge
- 14 for supervision?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. In your professional opinion, will the
- 17 granting of this application be in the best interest of
- 18 conversation and prevention of waste and the protection of
- 19 correlative rights?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 JIM KISER: Nothing further of this witness at this
- 22 time, Mr. Chairman.
- 23 BENNY WAMPLER: Your application said the estimated

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1 TD was 4930. You said 5030. Is it 5030?
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- JASON BLAKEMORE: Typically, for the permit, the
- 3 field engineer adds the actual depth to penetrate the
- 4 formation more.
- 5 JIM KISER: The application says---?
- 6 BENNY WAMPLER: 4930.
- JIM KISER: Hum, my says 5030.
- 8 MARY ANN FOX: So, does mine.
- 9 JIM KISER: Oh, well. 5030 is the correct depth.
- JASON BLAKEMORE: Yes. That's what's noted for the
- 11 permit.
- JIM KISER: Okay.
- BENNY WAMPLER: Okay.
- 14 (Board members confer among themselves.)
- 15 SANDRA RIGGS: The AFE differs from the application.
- JIM KISER: It's always a 100 feet off.
- 17 BENNY WAMPLER: Any other questions from members of
- 18 the Board? Mr. Garbis?
- 19 SANDRA RIGGS: Is there a permit for this well yet?
- 20 MARY ANN FOX: I think it's pending.
- 21 BOB WILSON: There is no permit.
- 22 BENNY WAMPLER: Mr. Garbis?
- DENNIS GARBIS: Yes, I noticed that there was a

- 1 letter from Rapoca Energy Company basically saying the
- 2 correct name is Wellmore Coal Company, which I see that has
- 3 been corrected. However, has the acreage in question, is
- 4 that resolved? Are those---?
- 5 JIM KISER: Yeah. That was...the result of that
- 6 dispute is the revised Exhibit A---.
- 7 DENNIS GARBIS: Okay.
- 8 JIM KISER: —and Exhibit B that you've got before
- 9 you and plus we were able to lease that interest---.
- 10 DENNIS GARBIS: Okay.
- 11 JIM KISER: ---since the time that application was
- 12 filed.
- 13 CLYDE KING: I have a question, Mr. Chairman.
- 14 BENNY WAMPLER: Mr. King?
- 15 CLYDE KING: How far is this well from the
- 16 school...is there a school close by, Buchanan County School
- 17 Board?
- JIM KISER: I have no idea. I have no idea.
- 19 MARY ANN FOX: I don't think so.
- 20 BENNY WAMPLER: Are you talking about the School
- 21 Board interest?
- 22 MARY ANN FOX: I think it's just the School Board.

23 CLYDE KING: Property that they own?

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1 MARY ANN FOX: Yes.
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- 2 CLYDE KING: That's that little number 7.
- MARY ANN FOX: That little number 7.
- 4 JIM KISER: Yeah, the acreage...the size of that
- 5 tract, Mr. King, is---.
- 6 MARY ANN FOX: And we're not drilling on it.
- JIM KISER: ---less than an acre. So, I assume
- 8 there wouldn't be a school there.
- 9 CLYDE KING: Huh. I wonder what---.
- JIM KISER: It's probably just some small tract.
- 11 Maybe they've got an office there. I don't know what it is.
- 12 CLYDE KING: Max, do you know anything about it?
- MAX LEWIS: I'd say it's probably just a vacant lot
- 14 from years ago.
- JIM KISER: Yeah, it's less than an acre.
- 16 MAX LEWIS: There was a lot of those little country
- 17 schools they used to have there in the county and they've
- 18 done away with them, about every one of them.
- 19 JIM KISER: Yeah, there may have been something
- 20 there at one time.
- 21 MAX LEWIS: Yeah.
- 22 SANDRA RIGGS: The address for elections is the
- 23 one...I know you read it off, but it's the one shown right

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1 here, 900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Attention: Mary Ann Fox,
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- 2 Regulatory?
- 3 MARY ANN FOX: Yes.
- 4 BENNY WAMPLER: Any other questions?
- 5 (No audible response.)
- 6 BENNY WAMPLER: Do you have anything further?
- JIM KISER: Mr. Chairman, we'd ask that the
- 8 application be approved as submitted.
- 9 CLYDE KING: I so move, Mr. Chairman.
- 10 BENNY WAMPLER: We have a motion to approve. Is
- 11 there a second?
- 12 DENNIS GARBIS: I second.
- BENNY WAMPLER: The motion and second. Any further
- 14 discussions?
- 15 (No audible response.)
- 16 BENNY WAMPLER: All in favor, signify by saying yes.
- 17 (All members signify yes.)
- BENNY WAMPLER: Opposed, say no.
- 19 (No audible response.)
- 20 BENNY WAMPLER: You have approval. Thank you.
- 21 The next item on the agenda is a petition from
- 22 Equitable Production Company for a well location exception

23 for conventional gas unit identified as V-4336. This is

- 1 docket number VGOB-00-11/21-0846, continued from December.
- $2\,$ We'd ask the parties that wish to address the Board in this
- 3 matter to come forward.
- 4 JIM KISER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,
- 5 Jim Kiser on behalf of Equitable Production Company. We'd
- 6 ask at this time that that application be withdrawn from the
- 7 docket. We were able to...originally, we were seeking a
- 8 location exception because of coal considerations and since
- 9 the time that we filed the application, they have come back
- 10 and approved Equitable's original location, which is a legal
- 11 location. So, we no longer need the exception.
- 12 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay. That is withdrawn. The next
- 13 item on the agenda is a petition from Equitable Production
- 14 Company for pooling of a coalbed methane unit identified as
- 15 VC-4527; docket number VGOB-00-11/21-0848 continued from
- 16 December. We'd ask the parties that wish to address the
- 17 Board in this matter to come forward.
- JIM KISER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,
- 19 Jim Kiser again on behalf Equitable. We'd ask the Board's
- 20 indulgence in this matter. We've got a situation on this
- 21 particular well where we do have an heir who is incompetent
- 22 and we're...we can't...we're having a hard time getting of
- 23 the other members of the family to agree to be a guardian.

- 1 So, we're going to have to go and probably get a local
- 2 attorney appointed guardian, and then I was informed Friday
- 3 of last week that this particular heir is in extremely bad
- 4 health and...so we'd like to continue it again until
- 5 February, at which time we'll have a resolution one way or
- 6 the other, I suppose.
- 7 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay, that's continued. And we're
- 8 going to skip to number six because that's the other one that
- 9 Mr. Kiser has. The Gas and Oil Board will reconvene docket
- 10 98-06/16-0670 concerning Equitable Production Company unit
- 11 VC-3169 for further consideration of applications filed by
- 12 certain claimants for the calculations and thereafter
- 13 disbursement to them of funds on deposit in drilling unit
- 14 escrow account and this was continued from December. We'd
- 15 ask the parties that wish to address the Board in this matter
- 16 to come forward.
- 17 JIM KISER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,
- 18 Jim Kiser on behalf of Equitable Production Company. We'd
- 19 continued this at the December hearing in that the escrow
- 20 agent had not at that time contacted the divisional or
- 21 analyst at Equitable in Charleston who handles these matters,
- 22 Ms. Melanie Freeman. I think, thanks in large part to Mr.
- 23 Wilson, they finally did contact her on, I think it was about

- 1 January the 8^{th} , about a week ago. And we do have her
- 2 spreadsheet and a letter from her verifying that the
- 3 Equitable ledger and the escrow's account ledger do match up.
- 4 The only difference being the accrued interest and there is
- 5 also a additional check that she has noted on here that was
- 6 issued to the escrow agent on 12/22 that's not included in
- 7 either balance. So, the...Equitable's balance is
- 8 8...Equitable deposits total...for this unit total for the
- 9 conflicting claims in this unit total \$84,061.81 and that's
- 10 for 12/1/98 through 10/31, 2000. And the escrow agent's
- 11 records show, with accrued interest, \$86,041.76. So, roughly
- 12 a \$180 in interest. And then the additional check which
- 13 would cover November production is check number 434345 dated
- 14 12/22, 2000 in the amount of \$688.03.
- 15 SANDRA RIGGS: So, I need to take the \$84,061.81
- 16 plus \$688.03 plus accrued interest?
- JIM KISER: Right.
- 18 SANDRA RIGGS: And those cover tracts---?
- JIM KISER: It covers Tracts 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7. Do
- $20\,$ you want me to give you this spreadsheet.
- 21 SANDRA RIGGS: Do you have...and you have the
- 22 breakdown?
- JIM KISER: Yeah.

-

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2
             JIM KISER: I'll give you her letter, too, to me.
   Now, this will be the breakout without the interest and
3
   without the November production.
5
             SANDRA RIGGS: Right.
6
             JIM KISER: Okay.
             (Board members confer among each other.)
7
             SANDRA RIGGS: Bob, do you have the three part
9 letter for this...for this disbursement in your package?
10
             JIM KISER: I've got one if you need one. I think,
11
   this?
12
             BOB WILSON: It's probably in the file that Mason
13
   has.
14
             JIM KISER: I've got a couple of them. Do you want
15
   to---?
16
             BOB WILSON: Yeah, right there in the front as a
   matter of a fact.
17
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SANDRA RIGGS: Okay.

21 (Board members confer among each other.)

JIM KISER: Right.

22 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay. The application is for Johnny

23 Smith and Loretta Smith for Tract 1 and you heard the amounts

24

18

19

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1

(Mason Brent hands the file to Sandra Riggs.)

SANDRA RIGGS: So, we're disbursing on Tract 1?

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read. Is there any questions?
2
              (No audible response.)
3
             BENNY WAMPLER: Do you have anything further?
4
             JIM KISER: (Indicates in the negative.)
5
             BENNY WAMPLER: Any questions from members of the
   Board on that?
7
              (No audible response.)
8
             BENNY WAMPLER: Is there a motion to approve
9
   disbursement?
10
             MAX LEWIS: I make a motion we approve.
11
             MASON BRENT: So, move.
12
             BENNY WAMPLER: Motion. Second?
13
             MASON BRENT: Second.
14
             BENNY WAMPLER: Motion and second. Any further
15
   discussion?
16
              (No audible response.)
17
             BENNY WAMPLER: All in favor, signify by saying yes.
18
              (All members signify yes.)
19
             BENNY WAMPLER: Opposed, say no.
20
             (No audible response.)
21
             BENNY WAMPLER: You have approval.
22
             JIM KISER: And, Sandy, what I'll do is I'll get
   Melanie to send you kind of a letter of introduction because
23
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1 she'll be the one doing these things and I'm sure there will
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- 2 be more of them. You know, that way she can get to know you.
- BENNY WAMPLER: Okay. Thank you.
- 4 JIM KISER: Thank you.
- 5 BENNY WAMPLER: Have a safe trip.
- JIM KISER: Yeah, you too.
- 7 BENNY WAMPLER: Defend me while you're there.
- 8 JIM KISER: Huh? Defend you while I'm there? You
- 9 don't need any defense, do you?
- 10 BENNY WAMPLER: I wouldn't bet on it. The next item
- 11 on the agenda is the reconvening of docket 95-04/18-0499-04
- 12 concerning Pocahontas Gas Partnership unit W-29 for further
- 13 consideration of applications filed by certain claimants for
- 14 the calculation thereafter disbursement of funds on deposit
- 15 in the drilling unit escrow account. We'd ask the parties
- 16 that wish to address the Board in this matter to come forward
- 17 at this time.
- 18 CLYDE KING: Number four?
- 19 BENNY WAMPLER: Yes, I'm sorry. I went back to
- 20 number four.
- 21 (Leslie Arrington distributes exhibits.)
- MARK SWARTZ: Go for it, man.
- 23 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay. Les Arrington on behalf of

- 1 Pocahontas Gas Partnership. What I passed out to you is our
- 2 spreadsheets on unit W-29 and W-30 and you'll notice on the
- 3 bottom of both of them, it shows a couple of owners on the
- 4 bottom. You'll see one that says Hugh McCrae and Consol.
- 5 There has already been...that disbursement has been made and
- 6 we're here on---.
- 7 BENNY WAMPLER: Let me...let me just stop you.
- 8 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay.
- 9 BENNY WAMPLER: We probably need to swear you in if
- 10 you're going to testify as to the figures.
- 11 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay.
- 12 (Witness is duly sworn.)
- BENNY WAMPLER: Carry on.
- 14 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay. I'm going to do W-30
- 15 first. You'll see that on the bottom of the spreadsheet I've
- 16 handed out, there's a column listed Coal Mountain and Garden
- 17 Realty. That disbursement has already taken place and we're
- 18 here to do a disbursement for Yukon and Coal Mountain, which
- 19 is listed as Tract 4, and our balance runs through November
- 20 the $30^{\rm th}$. There was a check placed in the escrow account for
- 21 December and then one will go in for January, which will be
- 22 the...we don't have those two shown here.
- 23 MASON BRENT: Les, you said you're going to do W-30

- 1 first?
- 2 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes, W-30. Yes, sir. It's the
- 3 short sheet.
- 4 MASON BRENT: We haven't called that one yet.
- 5 BENNY WAMPLER: No. Docket number 95-04/18-0502.
- 6 We'd ask the parties that wish to address the Board in this
- 7 matter to come forward, also.
- 8 MARK SWARTZ: He did call it.
- 9 MASON BRENT: Now, it's called.
- 10 LESLIE K. ARRINGTON: Okay.
- MARK SWARTZ: You can stay with us.
- 12 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay, Sorry, Going back
- 13 through that again. We've already disbursed Tract 2 for Coal
- 14 Mountain and Garden Realty and we're here on behalf of Tract
- 15 4, Yukon and Coal Mountain. Again, we have placed a check in
- 16 there for December and shortly there will be a check placed
- 17 in the escrow account for January. So, this gets us through
- 18 11/30, 2000. Our balances do match what the bank has.
- 19 BENNY WAMPLER: What you're bringing to the Board
- 20 today is a request to disburse through November the 30^{th} , is
- 21 what you have the numbers here---.
- 22 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Well, that's what's listed here.
- 23 Yes. Uh-huh.

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- 1 BENNY WAMPLER: --- and you're identifying that you
- 2 have deposited checks for December and January.
- 3 MARK SWARTZ: Is that correct?
- 4 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes.
- 5 BENNY WAMPLER: Would you tell us that disbursement
- 6 amount?
- 7 LESLIE ARRINGTON: The disbursement amount through
- 8 November the 30^{th} is \$47,881.69.
- 9 SANDRA RIGGS: Does that include interest?
- 10 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes, it does.
- 11 MARK SWARTZ: We also request that...this is Mark
- 12 Swartz. We also request that as of this month, that the
- 13 order provide that we could disburse directly to the people
- 14 who have the fee split agreement by Yukon, Pocahontas and
- 15 Coal Mountain so that we're only going to have to settle up
- 16 for December and January. Right?
- 17 LESLIE ARRINGTON: That's right.
- 18 CLYDE KING: So, you're saying that you're going to
- 19 disburse directly---?
- 20 MARK SWARTZ: From this day forward, yes, because
- 21 they have...and we might...I don't know how we've done in
- 22 this past, but the order might also provide so we don't have

23 to make a return trip for the two months, that if the bank

- 1 could simply notify us, you know, what the interest less cost
- 2 would be and we could compare that to what we put in because
- 3 we're only talking about two months and if it were
- 4 appropriate.
- 5 SANDRA RIGGS: I think once they have this, they can
- 6 sub-account.
- 7 MARK SWARTZ: Okay.
- 8 SANDRA RIGGS: Through November and then
- 9 automatically allocate---.
- 10 MARK SWARTZ: Okay. Okay.
- 11 SANDRA RIGGS: ---the two new checks.
- MARK SWARTZ: So we can get that out as well.
- MASON BRENT: Mr. Chairman?
- 14 BENNY WAMPLER: Yes.
- MASON BRENT: Shouldn't we, for the record, have
- 16 some sort of a statement from the bank saying that they do
- 17 indeed agree with these numbers.
- 18 BENNY WAMPLER: Do you have anything from them, Bob?
- 19 BOB WILSON: No, I do not have anything from them.
- 20 We...we get a...by contract, get a disbursement report from
- 21 them twice yearly that verifies the stuff. We have nothing
- 22 in place right now to verify this agreement. It has
- 23 generally been done between the operator and the bank, and

- 1 then the payout is filed as of the date of the check is
- 2 written, including interest and any checks that have come in
- 3 since the time of the Board order.
- 4 SANDRA RIGGS: I can handle that through the order
- 5 because I'll attach the spreadsheet and advise them if their
- 6 records purport to that shown on the spreadsheet, to
- 7 disburse; and if not, to notify the bank...I mean, notify the
- 8 Board.
- 9 BENNY WAMPLER: But that's a very good point.
- MASON BRENT: It just seems to me...I mean, we have
- 11 the operator saying, you know, and the bank agrees with this,
- 12 I just kind of think for good housekeeping and for the record
- 13 here, some affirmative statement from the bank saying indeed
- 14 we do agree with that. That is the right number.
- 15 BENNY WAMPLER: I agree.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Yeah, that's a good point.
- MARK SWARTZ: I will tell you that the...I agree
- 18 with what you're suggesting, but I would state, just that so
- 19 there's no confusion, that the bank balances reported in that
- 20 column bank balance, those numbers actually have come from
- 21 the bank. But we don't have anything official that we could,
- 22 you know, give you. I mean, we've got spreadsheets that
- 23 we've taken from their representations. But...so, I quess,

- 1 probably you just need to get something from them saying we
- 2 agree that this last...you know, this last entry reflected
- 3 our balance as of a date. I mean, we don't have that. I
- 4 mean, other than orally.
- 5 MASON BRENT: And I'm not suggesting that we hold up
- 6 this disbursement. I'd suggest that we could do this subject
- 7 to getting a statement, but in the future, if we had some
- 8 sort of an affirmative statement from the bank saying that
- 9 they do indeed agree with this record here.
- 10 BENNY WAMPLER: All right. Bob can require that.
- 11 BOB WILSON: I'll see to it that that occurs in the
- 12 future. Thank you.
- BENNY WAMPLER: Anything further on W-30?
- 14 LESLIE ARRINGTON: No.
- 15 BENNY WAMPLER: Is there a motion to disburse?
- 16 MAX LEWIS: I make a motion to disburse.
- 17 CLYDE KING: Second.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Second.
- 19 BENNY WAMPLER: Motion to disburse Tract 4. Motion
- 20 is seconded. Any further discussion? All in favor ---.
- 21 MASON BRENT: Only other further discussion I would
- 22 have is that that's subject to getting a statement from the
- 23 bank that they agree with these numbers.

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1 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay. It shall be subject to that.
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- 2 All in favor, signify by saying yes.
- 3 (All members signify yes.)
- 4 BENNY WAMPLER: Opposed, say no.
- 5 (No audible response.)
- 6 BENNY WAMPLER: You have approval. Okay, now, we're
- 7 going back to W-29?
- 8 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes. Uh-huh. Okay, likewise, on
- 9 Unit W-29 on our spreadsheet, the large sheet, you'll notice
- 10 several different columns listed that royalty splits have
- 11 already taken place and again we're here on behalf of Yukon/
- 12 Coal Mountain royalty split, Tract 15. And the present
- 13 balance that we show in there is \$444.18. And that too gets
- 14 us through November the 30th of 2000.
- 15 CLYDE KING: So, this will be the same as before,
- 16 Mark, that you'll directly do it, anything like your
- 17 December?
- MARK SWARTZ: Right. We'd make the same request
- 19 that we made on the other, that the bank sub-account the
- 20 tract for November and December and just make that
- 21 disbursement when they've calculated the amount, and also
- 22 authorize us to pay future months directly to the folks that

23 have the split agreement. So, basically it's a three part

- 1 order.
- BENNY WAMPLER: You meant for December and January,
- 3 I think.
- 4 MARK SWARTZ: I'm sorry. December and January.
- 5 Right. Because we're through November 30th.
- 6 BENNY WAMPLER: Any questions from members of the
- 7 Board? It will be the same stipulation with this that Mr.
- 8 Brent brought up. I think we all concur that Ms. Riggs will
- 9 have the bank verify...that the money matches. Do you have
- 10 anything further on Tract 15?
- MARK SWARTZ: Yeah...well, you might take a look at
- 12 the yellow column.
- 13 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Theirs is not colored. So,
- 14 you'll have to list it.
- BENNY WAMPLER: We don't have the yellow.
- MARK SWARTZ: Okay. You might look at the Stanley
- 17 W-29. If you look under Tract 5, there's a net change in the
- 18 tract balance. Do you see that?
- 19 BENNY WAMPLER: Yes.
- 20 MARK SWARTZ: Okay. This was previously disbursed
- 21 and it did not zero the account out, as you can see here, and
- 22 we've got \$5...I guess, \$5.20 with regard to Tract 5.
- 23 (Leslie Arrington confers with Mark Swartz.)

- 1 MARK SWARTZ: And we've got the same problem if you
- 2 go all the way over to Tract 9. We've got \$76.19 because
- 3 that wasn't zeroed out either when it was disbursed. And as
- 4 long as we're here and then we have a disbursement also, I'm
- 5 sorry, the very right hand side, Tracts 1 and 2. We've got a
- 6 disbursement of \$20,787 back in roughly July of '99, I'm
- 7 thinking. And you can see that that did not zero that
- 8 account out either. As long as we're here, unless there's
- 9 some concern with notice, which I'm not aware of, but, you
- 10 know, if there's a concern, we can come back, but we'd like
- 11 to zero those out.
- 12 SANDRA RIGGS: I think that was covered under the
- 13 original disbursement order. The escrow agent was told to
- 14 disburse X amount plus interest occurring from the date of
- 15 the accounting through and that was when it was the old
- 16 escrow agent and what they did was disburse the amount, but
- 17 they didn't disburse the interest that accrued from the date
- 18 of accounting through the date of disbursement. So, they've
- 19 already been ordered to do that.
- 20 MARK SWARTZ: So, we can just bring this to their
- 21 attention?
- 22 SANDRA RIGGS: I think...I think we can send
- 23 them...send the new escrow agent a copy of that order and

- 1 bring it to their attention and advise them to disburse under
- 2 the old...under the original order.
- MARK SWARTZ: But that you probably need to do,
- 4 right?
- 5 BENNY WAMPLER: We'll do...we'll do that.
- 6 SANDRA RIGGS: Yes, I'll do that.
- 7 MARK SWARTZ: Okay. But if...and then you've got
- 8 the same problem, I hate to jump back and forth here, but as
- 9 long as we're housekeeping, you'll see on W-30, if you're
- 10 going to send a letter, Sandra, look at Tract 2, there's
- 11 \$11.15 in there following a disbursement, you know, in
- 12 December of '99.
- BOB WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question,
- 14 please?
- 15 BENNY WAMPLER: Yes.
- BOB WILSON: Are there other accounts that you're
- 17 aware of that are in...that have this same problem?
- 18 LESLIE ARRINGTON: My answer...I'm sure there are if
- 19 it's in these two. To be specific, you know, we'd have to go
- $20\,$ back and rebalance the accounts, the ones that the
- 21 withdrawals have been made. But, you know, I...I can't
- 22 answer.
- MARK SWARTZ: Well, the bank ought to be able to

- 1 tell if they're setting up sub-accounts on the previously
- 2 disbursed units like, I think, they're supposed to. So, when
- 3 we look at their annual, or bi-annual reports, the balances,
- 4 when we start getting sub-accounts, we may be able to tell
- 5 just from that.
- 6 SANDRA RIGGS: These were done by First Virginia,
- 7 right when the escrow agent was changing over.
- 8 MARK SWARTZ: Right. But wouldn't the new escrow
- 9 agent---?
- 10 SANDRA RIGGS: Hopefully, they got these
- 11 spreadsheets and got those set up. But I'm not sure because
- 12 the disbursements were made. Now, on many of those, we've
- 13 made a subsequent disbursement. I think they would have at
- 14 that time. But I...we can tell. We can pull those that
- 15 prior disbursements that have been made on. I've got a list
- 16 of them.
- 17 MARK SWARTZ: Because I guess where I'm coming from
- 18 is so that we actually make progress with our accounting. I
- 19 guess, I would assume, maybe rightly or wrongly, that the new
- 20 bank would take...would establish sub-accounts for the units
- 21 that we've been before you on disbursements because the map
- 22 is done as of a date and they would have been able to do
- 23 that, and I guess that's what we need to confirm, because if

- 1 that's happening, then they ought to be able to deal with
- 2 this pretty easily.
- 3 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay. Is it your understanding
- 4 that they should have had, for instance, these two units in
- 5 sub-accounts?
- 6 SANDRA RIGGS: I think these...I...the ones where
- 7 some interest was left in there which caused the accounts not
- 8 to zero balance out were disbursements made by First Virginia
- 9 prior to the change over in the escrow agent and we had
- 10 reminded them three or four different times that they needed
- 11 to go back and clean up those interest accounts and it didn't
- 12 happen before the transfer was over. Now, in the transfer
- 13 over to the new escrow agent, I don't know whether they were
- 14 given the spreadsheets for prior disbursements so that they
- 15 could break them out into sub-accounts or not. So, we're
- 16 talking about very few. Anything that has occurred since the
- 17 new escrow agent was appointed, they're doing that. So,
- 18 there's just a handful of these that occurred right there and
- 19 they were the ones that Jill Harrison represented and it
- 20 would be very easy to identify which units those are. I'll
- 21 go back and pull those spreadsheets.
- 22 MARK SWARTZ: I think we probably need to do that
- 23 because when you did the accounting work for all the tracts,

- 1 we probably need to make sure we share that with them.
- 2 SANDRA RIGGS: And the spreadsheets are attached to
- 3 the order themselves.
- 4 MARK SWARTZ: Right.
- 5 SANDRA RIGGS: So, they got...if they got copies of
- 6 all of the orders, they should have it there. They just need
- 7 to break it out.
- 8 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay.
- 9 MARK SWARTZ: Those are those Northeast Longwall and
- 10 South Longwall.
- 11 SANDRA RIGGS: They were the Hugh McCrae/Garden
- 12 Realty disbursements.
- 13 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes, ma'am.
- MARK SWARTZ: Right.
- 15 MARK SWARTZ: So, to recap what we're asking for on
- 16 W-30, is...I'm sorry. On W-29, is to authorize before to
- 17 disburse the Yukon/Pocahontas/Coal Mountain Tract 15; to
- 18 authorize the Board in the process of doing the sub-account
- 19 accounting to disburse December and January pertaining to
- 20 Tract 15; to authorize the operator to pay with regard to
- 21 Tract 15 directly all future royalty payments after the one
- 22 that will be made this month, in January. Ms. Riggs will
- 23 write to the escrow agent to clean up some left over balances

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1 on previously disbursed accounts, which would be Tracts 5, 9
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- 2 and then Tracts 1 and 2 combined and I would imagine, you
- 3 know, we probably need the same caveat here that somebody
- 4 undertake to get the bank to confirm that the bank balance
- 5 that we're showing in the bank balance column is correct as
- 6 of November $30^{ ext{th}}$ of 2000. So, that's what we're asking for.
- 7 LESLIE ARRINGTON: And we do have the e-mail from
- 8 them showing their bank balance for those two units.
- 9 BENNY WAMPLER: Well, in keeping with what we've
- 10 been doing this time, we'll go ahead and have the bank
- 11 validate the balance. Excuse me just a second while I have a
- 12 discussion here.
- 13 (Board members confer among themselves.)
- 14 CLYDE KING: Are you saying this figure here is
- 15 correct?
- SANDRA RIGGS: Uh-huh.
- 17 CLYDE KING: Here?
- MARK SWARTZ: Well, we're in agreement.
- 19 (Board members continue to confer among
- 20 themselves.)
- 21 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay, any further discussion the
- 22 disbursement of Tract 15?
- 23 (No audible response.)

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1 BENNY WAMPLER: Is there a motion to approve?
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- 2 MAX LEWIS: I make a motion we approve.
- 3 BENNY WAMPLER: Second?
- 4 MASON BRENT: Second.
- 5 BENNY WAMPLER: All in favor, signify by saying yes.
- 6 (All members signify yes.)
- BENNY WAMPLER: Opposed, say no.
- 8 (No audible response.)
- 9 BENNY WAMPLER: You have approval. Thank you.
- 10 MARK SWARTZ: If you'll---.
- 11 LESLIE ARRINGTON: That's one of the toughest things
- 12 we do is this escrow stuff. That is---.
- BENNY WAMPLER: Okay, going to number seven on the
- 14 agenda now. The next item on the agenda is a petition from
- 15 Buchanan Production Company for pooling of a coalbed methane
- 16 unit under Oakwood Coalbed Methane Gas Field I order
- 17 identified as YYY-21; docket number VGOB-00-12/19-0851,
- 18 continued from December; and we'd ask the parties that wish
- 19 to address the Board in this matter to come forward at this
- 20 time.
- 21 MARK SWARTZ: Mark Swartz and Les Arrington. Mr.
- 22 Chairman, we had intended to continue that to the February
- 23 docket and maybe we didn't communicate that to the Board. It

- 1 certainly was our intention. So, I would ask that we be
- 2 allowed to come back on that in February.
- BENNY WAMPLER: It's continued. Do you have any
- 4 other housekeeping on the agenda?
- 5 MARK SWARTZ: Yes.
- 6 BENNY WAMPLER: We'll go ahead and take that---.
- 7 MARK SWARTZ: We need to...we need to continue
- 8 docket items...now this would be for...well, let me
- 9 start...dockets 14 through 19 are actually Buchanan
- 10 Production Company and not Pocahontas Gas, just so you know
- 11 that. So, 14 through 19, in your docket identified
- 12 Pocahontas Gas as the applicant and it's really Buchanan
- 13 Production. Now, with regard to 14, 15 and 16, which are
- 14 three Buchanan Production applications, we've got some notice
- 15 problems. We noticed some lessors instead of unleased
- 16 people. So, we need to redo that and we would like to come
- 17 back...the applications are correct, we just noticed them
- 18 wrong, and we'd like to come back on 14, 15 and 16 in
- 19 February. We just need a month---.
- 20 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay.
- 21 MARK SWARTZ: ---to get out the notice on that.
- $22\,$ And the rest of the stuff, we're ready to go on. I would
- 23 suggest, and this is assuming that the motion to continue

- 1 YYY-21 is granted, but I would suggest...since we don't have
- $2\,$ any folks here, and it might be confusing for the public, but
- $3\,$ I don't think it would be confusing for you guys, I would
- 4 suggest that we consolidate Pocahontas Gas Partnership units
- 5 for hearing. We've got the usual spreadsheet which
- 6 summarizes the detail and then we'll go through them
- 7 individually as we need to. But...and then the four
- 8 remaining Buchanan Production units, I think we can
- 9 consolidate those as well. So, what I'm suggesting is that
- 10 we continue 7, 14, 15 and 16 and then combine the remaining
- 11 PGP applications, none of which are being continued, and the
- 12 Buchanan Production ones that aren't continued also be
- 13 combined. So, basically we'll have two hearings.
- 14 BENNY WAMPLER: Any objection to the continuance
- 15 request? That's continuing---.
- 16 CLYDE KING: That's 7, 14, 15 and 16?
- 17 MARK SWARTZ: Correct.
- 18 BENNY WAMPLER: Docket numbers...I already called
- 19 seven, the other docket numbers continuing items 14 is docket
- 20 number VGOB-01-01/16-0861; item 15 is VGOB-01-01/16-0862; and
- 21 then item 16 is docket number VGOB-01-01/16-0863. Now,
- 22 having done that, those are continued. Is there any
- 23 objection from the board to combine the PGP and the Buchanan

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Production Company items?
2
             (No audible response.)
3
             BENNY WAMPLER: All right. Bear with me and I'll
4 call the units and the docket numbers. The Board's calling
   for hearing a petition from Pocahontas Gas Partnership for
5
   pooling of a coalbed methane unit identified as AV-111,
7 docket number VGOB-01-01/16-0852; unit AV-112, docket number
8 VGOB-01-01/16-0853; unit AV-113, docket number VGOB-01-01/16-
9 0854; AW-112, docket number VGOB-01-01/16-0856; and AW-113,
10 docket number VGOB-01-01/16-0857; and AX-114, docket number
11
   VGOB-01-01/16-0859. We'd ask the parties that wish to
12
   address the Board in these matters to come forward at this
13
   time.
14
             MARK SWARTZ: Mark Swartz and Les Arrington on
   behalf of Pocahontas Gas Partnership.
16
             (Leslie Arrington distributes exhibits.)
17
18
                          LESLIE ARRINGTON
19
   having been duly sworn, was examined and testified as
20
   follows:
21
                         DIRECT EXAMINATION
22
   QUESTIONS BY MR. SWARTZ:
23
                    Mr. Arrington, you need to state your name.
             Q.
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1 A. Leslie Arrington.
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- 2 Q. And who are you employed by?
- 3 A. Consol Energy.
- 4 0. Inc.?
- 5 A. Inc.
- 6 Q. Okay. You've previously been sworn?
- 7 A. Yes, I have.
- 8 Q. The...a few housekeeping things. The
- 9 Pocahontas Partnership applications which are...pooling
- 10 applications which are on the docket today that have been
- 11 combined, these are the first poolings that we have done in
- 12 the new field, correct?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. And when you noticed these, you guessed at
- 15 the field name and you guessed wrong, right?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. So, you guessed that the field was going to
- 18 be the Nora II?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- Q. So, on all of the applications it's referred

- 21 to as the Nora II and it's turned out that it's the Middle
- 22 Ridge Coalbed Methane Field, correct?
- 23 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. So, all of the units, Pocahontas Gas units,
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- 2 we're going to be talking about are in the Middle Ridge Field
- 3 Rules in accordance with the sizing and shape of those units?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. Okay. Now, while we're on the topic of unit
- 6 sizes, we were in front of the Board with regard to that
- 7 little area where ERECs had gotten some provisional rules,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. We resized some units to make the Nora
- 11 Fields blend in with the adjoining Oakwood Field, correct?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And to make the Middle Ridge Field work as
- 14 well?
- A. We did.
- 16 Q. Okay. And some of those units are smaller
- 17 in size than the typical unit?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Why don't you go down the six units that
- 20 we're talking about today...and I'm not sure this is
- 21 essential, but if the Board wants to make a note here, it
- 22 probably would be easiest to just pick maybe the CBM leased
- 23 coal column and we've got, you know, the various percentages

- 1 there, but why don't you give the Board members the acreage,
- 2 the size of these units because some of them are in that sort
- 3 of adjustment row?
- 4 A. All right. The adjustment row was the
- 5 northern row that adjoins the Oakwood Field.
- 6 O. It's the AV row?
- 7 A. AV row.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. And you go generally...you should always
- 10 notice that the AV row is going to be somewhere in the
- 11 neighborhood of 50-51 acres and in this case, unit AV-111 is
- 12 50.9 acres; AV-112 is---.
- 13 Q. Slow down so Sandy can write this down.
- 14 A. Okay. AV-112 is 50.7; AV-113 was 50.6; AW-
- 15 112 58.7; AX-113 58.7; and AX-114 is 58.7.
- 16 Q. Now, on this spreadsheet that you've handed
- 17 out today, there's some revisions listed at the bottom?
- 18 A. There is. Yes.
- 19 Q. And have you, just staying with the
- 20 Pocahontas units, AV-113, Exhibit A page two was changed and
- 21 the change is noted there, correct?
- 22 A. That's correct. And we simply have...in the
- 23 unleased portion, we were showing that we had some coal as

- 1 unleased and, in fact, it was...all the coal section was
- 2 leased and it should have been 0.00 adverse.
- 3 Q. And then there was a change with regard to
- 4 Exhibits B-3 and E concerning AW-112, correct?
- 5 A. That's correct.
- 6 Q. And that apparently was to...well, it says
- 7 to reflect that Swain Perkins was leased with a known
- 8 address?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Okay. And is it true that the packet of
- 11 exhibits that you passed out to the Board contains the
- 12 Revised Exhibits with regard to AV-113 and AW-112 that we've
- 13 just discussed?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. So, those can be, if necessary, attached to
- 16 any order that might be entered?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. In preparing for today's hearings,
- 19 did we notice that we regard to two other...two units that we
- 20 needed to revise an exhibit?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 O. And what do we need to do?
- 23 A. Exhibit A, page two needs to be revised in

- 1 unit AV-111 and AV-112.
- Q. Okay. And we'll be tendering that to the
- 3 Board?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Let's start with, you know, who the
- 6 applicant is and the operator issues, kind of go through that
- 7 and then we'll as necessary work through the individual
- 8 applications. Okay. So, the applicant here in all six of
- 9 these pooling applications is Pocahontas Gas Partnership, is
- 10 that correct?
- 11 A. That's correct. Yes.
- 12 Q. And Pocahontas Gas Partnership is a Virginia
- 13 General Partnership that has two partners and those partners
- 14 are Consolidation Coal Company and Conoco, Inc., is that
- 15 correct?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Who is Pocahontas Gas Partnership requesting
- 18 be designated as the Board's operator?
- 19 A. Pocahontas Gas.
- Q. Okay. Is Pocahontas Gas Partnership
- 21 authorized to do business in the Commonwealth, has it
- 22 registered with the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
- 23 and does it have a blanket bond on file?

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1 A. Yes.
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- Q. With regard to the various units, have you
- 3 listed the names of the respondents, meaning the people that
- 4 you're seeking to pool in both the notice of hearing and
- 5 Exhibit B-3?
- A. Yes, we have.
- 7 Q. Okay. Do you want to add any respondents to
- 8 any of these?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. Do you want to dismiss any respondents to
- 11 any of these?
- 12 A. Only to the affect it would be in AW-112 and
- 13 Swain Perkins as being leased.
- 14 Q. Okay. So, to the extent he was shown as a
- 15 respondent to be pooled. We're dismissing him because we
- 16 have a lease?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. And that's the only respondent that
- 19 you're seeking to---?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. ---eliminate today?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. With regard to notice, could you tell

- 1 the Board what you did in terms of notice, both mailing and
- 2 publication?
- 3 A. Yes. It was mailed by certified mail/return
- 4 receipt requested on December the 15th of 2000, and it was
- 5 also published in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on December
- 6 the $21^{
 m st}\ldots$ December the 21st of 2000 and this is the same for
- 7 all units.
- 8 Q. Okay. So, the dates are the same for
- 9 everybody?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Today, have you filed summaries, spreadsheet
- 12 summaries with regard to status of mailing and so forth with
- 13 regard to each of the units with the Board?
- 14 A. Yes, we have.
- 15 Q. Okay. Have you also filed a copy of
- 16 the...was it published in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph?
- 17 A. Yes, it was.
- 18 Q. Have you also filed copies of their
- 19 certifications with regard to publication?
- A. We have.
- 21 Q. When you published, what was it that was
- 22 printed in the paper?
- 23 A. The notice that's attached to the

- 1 application.
- 2 Q. Okay. So, it would be the two pages of text
- 3 and the map, the one page map, which sort of shows where it
- 4 is in the state and then identifies the unit in relation to
- 5 the roads and streams?
- A. That's correct.
- 7 Q. Okay. Okay, with regard to...although you
- 8 have various leased interest, or positions in each of these
- 9 units, it's obvious that you've leased a number of people.
- 10 Could you tell the Board what the terms that you have offered
- 11 to the folk or generally to the folks that you've been able
- 12 to lease?
- 13 A. Yes. We offer a \$1 per acre, per year for a
- 14 coalbed methane lease with a five year term.
- Q. And what's the royalty?
- 16 A. 1/8. I'm sorry.
- 17 Q. And that rental is payable until production
- 18 commences and then royalty kicks in, correct?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. Would you recommend those lease terms to the

- 21 Board to incorporate into any order it might enter with
- 22 regard to these units concerning the status of people who
- 23 might be deemed to have been leased?

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1 A. Yes, we would.
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- 2 Q. Now, each of these units is a frac unit,
- 3 correct?
- 4 A. It is.
- 5 Q. And having gone through each of the
- 6 applications, it appears to me that each of the wells is
- 7 shown on the plats that are included?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. There's one well in every unit?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. And none of the wells as proposed or
- 12 existing require a location exception?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Is there an Exhibit C, a well
- 15 cost...an estimated well cost exhibit in each of the
- 16 applications?
- 17 A. Yes, there is.
- 18 Q. Okay. Now, with regard to royalty owners
- 19 who are pooled or have election options, if they wanted
- 20 to...if the royalty owner wanted to get some feel for what
- 21 his royalty interest in any given unit would be, would he go

- 22 to Exhibit B-3?
- 23 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. Okay. And there's only percentage reported
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- 2 here because we're dealing with a frac unit, correct?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. And so the percentage interest in unit would
- 5 be that individual royalty owners that's being pooled, his
- 6 individual percentage of interest in that unit then would be
- 7 applied or multiplied times the 12 1/8 or 1/8 royalty?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. And that would be the allocated royalty?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And if the royalty owner was interested in
- 12 determining what his participation or carried interest
- 13 multiplier would be, he would use that same percentage and
- 14 take it times the well cost?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. And then times a multiplier, if necessary,
- 17 to determine the participation or carried interest costs?
- A. Uh-huh.
- 19 Q. Correct?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Is it your testimony, or your
- 22 opinion, that the plan to develop the coalbed methane under
- 23 each of these units as is disclosed by the application and

- 1 then the plat and the wells that are located in these units,
- 2 that that plan is a reasonable plan to develop the coalbed
- 3 methane under these units that will protect both your lessors
- 4 and the unleased parties so that in effect protects all
- 5 people with correlative rights?
- A. Yes, it is.
- 7 Q. Now, let's turn to the units individually,
- $8\,$ and before we get to your spreadsheet, I want to talk a
- 9 little bit about escrow requirements and it appears to me in
- 10 reviewing AV-111 that escrow for conflicting claims is
- 11 required, is that true?
- 12 A. Yes, it is.
- 13 Q. With regard to AV-112, it appears that
- 14 escrow is required again because of conflicting claims?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. With regard to AV-113, it looks like escrow
- 17 is required again because of conflicting claims?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. In 1...AW-112, it appears to me that we have
- 20 some people that we cannot locate? If you look at the---.
- 21 A. I believe that's...yes.
- 22 Q. That you've shown address unknown?
- 23 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And in 1...AW-112, we also have conflicting
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- 2 claims issues?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. So, with regard to escrow requirements in
- 5 AW-112, there are tracts that have folks that we've been
- 6 unable to locate and there are tracts that are in conflict?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. So, there are two reasons to escrow?
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. Right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Okay. When we get to AW-113, it looks like
- 13 we have all three reasons. We have got uncertainty with
- 14 regard to who owns it. So, we've got an unknown issue; we've
- 15 got unlocateable because we've got some addresses we don't
- 16 have; and we also have conflicting claims problems?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. So, in drafting that escrow provision, the
- 19 Board would have to anticipate all three situations?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. Finally, with regard to AX-114, it looks
- 22 like we have two reasons to escrow: One, because we have
- 23 some missing addresses and secondly because there are

- 1 conflicting claims, is that correct?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. Okay. Let's turn to the spreadsheet summary
- 4 that you passed out to the Board today and I think it would
- 5 probably be simplest if you just took it one unit at a
- 6 time---.
- 7 A. Okay.
- Q. ---because we need to get this in the
- 9 record, and we've already covered notice and publication and
- 10 some of those things. But you certainly need to talk about
- 11 what interest you've acquired, what you're seeking to pool,
- 12 the status of the well and the cost of the well.
- 13 A. Okay. Okay, beginning with AV-111, we have
- 14 leased 100% coalbed methane from the coal owner and 97.60% of
- 15 the oil and gas interest. We're seeking to pool 2.4% of---.
- 16 Q. No. Of the...okay.
- 17 A. ---the oil and gas interest, and we have a
- 18 100% of the coal leased underneath that unit. And that's for
- 19 well AV-111. The permit was issued...the permit number was
- 20 4593. It was issued May the $31^{\rm st}$ of 2000, and it was drilled
- 21 on October the 5th to a total depth of 2,231 feet and five
- 22 tenths at a cost of \$209,680.79.
- Q. And we had to file a revised Exhibit A, page

- 1 two with regard to his unit, correct?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 Q. And what's going to change?
- 4 A. It will indicate that there's 0% of the coal
- 5 interest unleased. Okay. Okay, AV-112, we have 100% of the
- 6 coalbed methane leased from the coal owner. We have 70.67st
- 7 of the oil and gas interest leased. We're seeking to pool
- 8 29.33% of the oil and gas interest and again we'll have to
- 9 revise Exhibit A, page two do to the fact that I copied the
- 10 information over to the adverse coal owners. We have 100% of
- 11 the coal leased underneath that unit. The well permit number
- 12 is 4626 issued June the 27^{th} of 2000. It was drilled on
- 13 October the 2^{nd} of 2000 to a total depth of 2,230.50 feet at
- 14 a cost of \$210,120.46.
- 15 Unit AV-113, we have 100% of the coal leased from
- 16 the coal owner...coalbed meth...coalbed methane owner. We
- 17 have 67.57% of the oil and gas interest leased. We're
- 18 seeking to pool 32.43% of the oil and gas interest. That
- 19 was...that would be for well AV-113. The permit is 4462,
- 20 which has a modification to that well. It was issued on
- 21 February the 3^{rd} of 2000, drilled August the 22^{nd} of 2000 to a
- 22 total depth of 2,440.40 feet at a cost of \$217,575.78.
- Unit and well AW-112, we have 100% of the coal

- 1 owners, coalbed methane leased. 65% of the oil and gas
- 2 interest leased. We're seeking to pool 35% of the oil and
- $3\,$ gas interest and underneath that unit, we lease 100% of the
- 4 coal. That permit for well AW-112 is 4671. It was issued
- 5 August the $3^{\rm rd}$ of 2000. It was drilled September the $25^{\rm th}$ of
- 6 2000 to a depth of 2,464.90 feet at a cost of \$221,673.75.
- AW-113, we have 100% of the coal...coalbed methane
- 8 interest leased, 80.82% of the oil and gas interest and we're
- 9 seeking to pool 19.18% of the oil and gas interest. We have
- 10 100% of the coal leased under this unit. The well permit
- 11 number for AW-113 is 4558 issued on April the 27^{th} of 2000,
- 12 drilled August the 28th of 2000 to a total depth of 2,461.70
- 13 feet at a cost of \$222,034.55.
- Unit AX-114, we're seeking to pool...I mean, we
- 15 have leased 95.14% of the coal owners, coalbed methane
- 16 interest, and we have leased 85.09% of the oil and gas
- 17 interest. We're seeking to pool 4.86% of the coal interest
- 18 and 14.91% of the oil and gas interest. Under that unit, we
- 19 have 95.14% of the coal leased. This is well number AX-114,
- 20 permit number is 4632. It was issued on July the $10^{\rm th}$ of
- 21 2000. It was drilled September the 6^{th} of 2000 to a total

- 22 depth of 2,501 feet and five tenths with a cost of
- 23 \$221,463.14.

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2
             BENNY WAMPLER: Any questions from members of the
3 Board?
4
             CLYDE KING: Are we going to consolidate 111 through
5
   114?
6
             BENNY WAMPLER: Yes.
7
             CLYDE KING: Do you want a motion?
8
              (No audible response.)
9
             CLYDE KING: I so move, Mr. Chairman.
10
             BENNY WAMPLER: I have a motion to approve.
11
             DENNIS GARBIS: I make a motion to approve it.
12
             BENNY WAMPLER: Second?
13
             MASON BRENT: I second.
14
             BENNY WAMPLER: Second. Any further discussion?
15
             (No audible response.)
16
             BENNY WAMPLER: All in favor, signify by saying yes.
17
              (All members signify yes.)
18
             BENNY WAMPLER: Opposed, say no.
19
              (No audible response.)
20
             BENNY WAMPLER: You have approval. Do you want to
   take five minutes or do you want to go to the next one?
22
              (Board member confer among each other.)
23
             BENNY WAMPLER: We'll take a five minute break.
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MARK SWARTZ: Okay. That's all I have.

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1
             (Off record.)
             BENNY WAMPLER: We're ready to reconvene.
2
3
             BOB WILSON: Mr. Chairman?
4
             BOB WILSON: Mr. Wilson?
5
             BOB WILSON: Before you call these items, to
   reiterate if I could say it, something Mr. Swartz said
   earlier, items 14 through 20 on the agenda should in
   actuality be Buchanan Production Company rather than
  Pocahontas Gas Partnership. We have dropped that little
10
   detail a couple of times now and we'll see to it that it
11
   doesn't happen in the future.
12
             BENNY WAMPLER: All right. We will combine the
   (inaudible). Item 17 is unit D-16, docket number VGOB-01-
13
14
   01/16-0864; item 18 is unit E-15, docket number VGOB-01-
15
   01/16-0866; item 19 is unit E-16, docket number VGOB-01-
16
   01/16-0867; and item 20 is unit E-17, docket number VGOB-01-
   01/16-0868; and we'd ask the parties that wish to address the
17
18
   Board in this matter to come forward at this time.
19
             MARK SWARTZ: Mark Swartz and Les Arrington.
20
21
                          LESLIE ARRINGTON
22
                         DIRECT EXAMINATION
23
   QUESTIONS BY MR. SWARTZ:
24
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- 1 Q. Les, you need to state your name for us
- 2 again?
- 3 A. Leslie Arrington.
- 4 Q. Who do you work for?
- 5 A. Consol Energy, Inc.
- 6 Q. These applications that we've consolidated
- 7 today, docket items 17 through 20, are these all 80 acre
- 8 Oakwood units?
- 9 A. Yes, they are.
- 10 Q. And are all of the pooling applications
- 11 seeking to pool them both under Oakwood I and Oakwood II?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And at that the present time, are they
- 14 essentially in a mode where they would produce active gob
- 15 gas?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Okay. Let's go through the general
- 18 information and then we can get to specific...some specific
- 19 units. The applicant here in all three...four of these
- 20 instances is Buchanan Production Company, is that correct?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. And Buchanan Production Company is a
- 23 Virginia General Partnership that has two partners, is that

- 1 true?
- 2 A. That's true.
- 3 Q. The two partners are Appalachian Operators,
- 4 Inc. and Appalachian Methane, Inc. and they are the two
- 5 corporate partners in Buchanan Production Company and the
- 6 stock in those two partners is owned either directly or
- 7 indirectly by a company called Consol Energy, Inc., is that
- 8 right?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Did Consol, Inc., your previous employer,
- 11 okay---?
- 12 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. ---merge into Consol Energy, Inc. effective
- 14 December the 31^{st} of 2000?
- 15 A. Yes, it did.
- Q. So, all the employees of Consol, Inc. are
- 17 now employees of Consol Energy, right?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And we've been substituting bonds and all of
- 20 that sort of stuff?
- A. We have.
- 22 Q. Okay. Is Buchanan Production Company
- 23 authorized to do business in the Commonwealth?

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1 A. Yes, it is.
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- 2 Q. Who are you asking be appointed the
- 3 designated operator?
- 4 A. Consol Energy, Inc.
- 5 Q. Okay. And have you...is Consol Energy, Inc.
- 6 a Delaware Corporation?
- 7 A. Yes, it is.
- 8 Q. Okay. Is it authorized to do business in
- 9 the Commonwealth?
- 10 A. Yes, it is.
- 11 Q. Okay. Has it registered with DMME and does
- 12 it have a blanket bond on file as successor to Consol, Inc.?
- 13 A. Yes, it has.
- Q. Okay. And it's in the process of
- 15 registering or has it already---?
- A. We have.
- 17 Q. You've already done that, okay. Now, way
- 18 back in the dark ages of development here, we're probably
- 19 talking '91 or '92, Buchanan Production Company delegated the
- 20 management responsibilities for its properties to Consol,
- 21 Inc., correct?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- Q. And that's still in place?

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1 A. Yes, it is.
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- 2 Q. And Consol Energy, Inc., of course, has
- 3 succeeded to Consol, Inc.'s obligations, correct?
- 4 A. That's right.
- 5 Q. So, we still have the same circumstances?
- A. Yes.
- 7 Q. With regard to these four applications, are
- 8 the names of the people that you're seeking to pool listed in
- 9 both the notice of hearing and in Exhibits B-3?
- 10 A. Yes, they are.
- 11 Q. Do you wish to add anybody?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Do you wish to subtract anybody today?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Okay. So, the lineups are correct?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Could you tell the Board about publication
- 18 and mailing?
- 19 A. Yes, it was mailed by certified mail/return
- 20 receipt requested on December the 15th of 2000 and published
- 21 in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on December the $19^{\rm th}$ of
- 22 2000, and that's for all four units.
- Q. Okay. And have you filed the spreadsheet

- 1 with regard to mailing status and copies of the cards with
- 2 the Board today?
- 3 A. Yes, we have.
- 4 Q. Okay. Have you also filed a copy of the
- 5 Bluefield Daily Telegraphs's certificate with regard to
- 6 publication?
- 7 A. Yes, we have.
- 8 Q. When you published, did you publish the two
- 9 page text of the notice together with the maps showing their
- 10 location in the Commonwealth and then showing their location
- 11 in the grid overlaid on a county map?
- 12 A. Yes, we did.
- 13 O. And that would be true for all four units?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 O. And each one of these units is an 80 acre
- 16 unit and you're seeking to develop the coal seams from the
- 17 Tiller on down, correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. There are multiple wells in some of the
- 20 units?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 O. And there are zero wells in some of the
- 23 other units?

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1 A. That's correct.
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- 2 Q. With regard to the allocation of costs,
- 3 which we're going to get to in a minute, what is the maximum
- 4 number of wells regardless of how many occur that you have
- 5 allocated costs for in any given unit?
- 6 A. Six.
- 7 Q. Is that per panel or per unit?
- 8 A. Per unit.
- 9 Q. Okay. If we take, for example...let's see
- 10 if we can find the one that has five in it. If we look at E-
- 11 16---.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. ---that has five wells in it, correct?
- 14 A. E-16? Well, actually E-16, it is showing
- 15 numerous wells, but there will only be two wells allocated to
- 16 it.
- 17 O. Okay. Let's start with the first one. The
- 18 first question is, are there in fact five wells located in
- 19 three different longwall panels under Exhibit E-16?
- 20 A. There is.
- Q. Under unit E-16?
- 22 A. There is.
- Q. Okay. For purposes of allocating well costs

- 1 to E-16, or any other units that are over those three
- 2 longwall panels, how many wells have you included in the cost
- 3 calculation?
- A. For unit E-16, for instance, there's only
- 5 two wells allocated to its costs.
- 6 Q. Okay. So even though you could multiple the
- 7 well costs times five, you're basically...you have limited it
- 8 to two?
- 9 A. I have. At the present time, we're not
- 10 planning on those additional wells.
- 11 Q. Being included in the costs?
- 12 A. That's right.
- 13 Q. Okay. And is that historically what
- 14 Buchanan Production Company has done, is regardless of the
- 15 number of wells never....in conjunction of the mine plan, has
- 16 never allocated the cost of more than two to any unit or any
- 17 collection of units?
- 18 A. Prob...I believe that's correct.
- 19 Q. Okay. But certainly that has been your
- 20 practice---?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. ---since Consol, Inc. has owned Buchanan
- 23 Production?

- 1 A. We may have allocated more at times---.
- 2 Q. Okay.
- 3 A. ---to a longwall panel.
- 4 Q. To a panel. I'm talking to a unit in an
- 5 active gob.
- 6 A. Mark, there could be at times, if we have
- 7 three longwall panels such as shown here, there could be more
- 8 wells...there could be more wells.
- 9 Q. Okay, you're...okay, I think we're at cross
- 10 purposes and---.
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. ---you straighten me out, if I'm wrong. I'm
- 13 not talking about if you have three units in a longwall panel
- 14 which would allow you to allocate six wells.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. I'm talking about if you've got one unit
- 17 overall in a longwall panel and you're allocating costs to
- 18 that unit, the maximum you're talking about is two wells,
- 19 correct, in all of these application today?
- 20 A. That's right.
- Q. Okay. And historically, has that been your

- 22 practice generally?
- A. Generally.

- 1 Q. Okay. And if the Board looks at the
- 2 allocation of costs, and we'll be talking about that later,
- 3 but particularly Exhibit G, page one, they'll see that even
- 4 though there are panels where there are numerous wells, the
- 5 costs do not reflect...the costs that we're seeking to
- 6 allocate do not reflect the total costs?
- 7 A. That's right.
- 8 Q. Okay. All right. Obviously, from looking
- 9 at the percentages that you have acquired, and the
- $10\,$ percentages that you're trying to pool, you have been able to
- 11 lease significant portions of these four units, correct?
- 12 A. We have.
- 13 Q. What terms have you offered to the folks
- 14 that you have been able to lease from?
- 15 A. Our standard coalbed methane lease is a \$1
- 16 per acre per year, with a five year term, with a 1/8 royalty.
- 17 Q. And would that be the terms that you would
- 18 recommend to the Board that they incorporate in any order
- 19 that they might make with regard to folks that could be
- 20 deemed to be leased?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- 22 Q. With regard to revisions to exhibits and/or
- 23 the need for revisions, I notice in the notes in the

- 1 spreadsheet that you've passed out to the Board, you've
- 2 indicated that there's a revised Exhibit C that you've
- 3 tendered today to them.
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. With regard to unit E-17, and you had used
- 6 the wrong cost per foot in the contract drilling section and
- 7 had under estimated the costs, correct?
- 8 A. Actually, I think it was a bit more. It was
- 9 a hundred...the DWE that's in the application that they have
- 10 in their possession was \$133,000 and I believe the new
- 11 exhibits has \$126,000.
- 12 Q. Okay. So, it actually had overstated the
- 13 number?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. In addition, in preparing for the
- 16 hearings today, did we determine that there are some further
- 17 revisions that need to be made?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Okay. And what is it that we need to do?
- 20 A. Yes. Normal exhibits that we submit to you
- 21 all, on our Exhibit B-3 and Es, if there should be one, we
- 22 have listed in there the active panels and their respective
- 23 percentages being allocated, we failed to get that

- 1 information on these exhibits. So, we will revise those and
- 2 get them to you.
- Q. Okay. Let's...let's just go with Exhibit,
- 4 or with pooling application D-16, and kind of identify
- 5 specifically for the Board what you're talking about. If you
- 6 turn to Exhibit B-3, for example---.
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. ---there is a column acres in unit, correct?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And then there's a percent of a unit?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. And the percent indicates the amount of
- 13 acreage that the respondent has in the 80 acre unit, correct?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. But to pay on...pay production royalties on
- 16 panel production, there needs to be a further breakout of
- 17 percent in the various panels?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And those percentages are actually stated in
- $20\,$ another portion of the applications, but they just didn't
- 21 make it on to Exhibit B-3.
- 22 A. Uh-huh. That's right.
- Q. And the percentages that you would use to

- 1 calculate that are reported at G, page one?
- 2 A. They are.
- 3 Q. So, you're going to derive those percentages
- 4 and submit revised Exhibits B-3, and if necessary, the
- 5 conflicting claims exhibit ---?
- 6 A. That's right.
- 7 O. ---to the Board?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. And that would be true of all four of
- 10 the Buchanan Production Company units we're talking ---?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. ---about today?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. All right. With regard to the wells,
- 15 are the wells and their locations shown on the Exhibit G that
- 16 accompanies each one of the applications?
- 17 A. Yes, they are.
- 18 O. Okay. And because these are wells in
- 19 conjunction with mining, well location exceptions are not an
- 20 issue, correct?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- Q. I would ask you if it is your opinion that
- 23 the development of coalbed methane under these four units

- 1 initially by frac wells and ultimately by active gob
- 2 production that that development was a reasonable plan to
- 3 develop the resource and that the methodology to pay
- 4 royalties and account for royalties is designed to protect
- 5 the correlative rights of both your lessor and the folks that
- 6 you have not been able to lease from? Is that your opinion?
- 7 A. Yes, it is.
- 8 Q. Let's go through the spreadsheet today with
- 9 regard to these Buchanan Production units, and bearing in
- 10 mind that we've already talked about publication and mailing
- 11 and so forth, could you outline for the Board the interest
- 12 you've acquired, what you're seeking to pool, and the status
- 13 of the wells?
- 14 A. Okay. For unit D-16, we have leased
- 15 74.9078% of both the coal, oil and gas, coalbed methane
- 16 interest. We're seeking to pool 25.0922% of the coal, oil
- 17 and gas, coalbed methane interest and we have a 100% of the
- 18 coal leased under that unit. Within that D-16, there was a
- 19 cost allocated per longwall panel that ended up being for
- 20 that unit a cost to participate would be \$286,293.07.
- 21 Unit E-15, we have leased 90.9815% of the coal, oil
- 22 and gas, coalbed methane interest, and seeking to pool
- 23 9.0185% of the coal, oil and gas coalbed methane interest and

- 1 we have a 100% of the coal leased below that unit. And
- 2 within that unit, it would cost \$31,425.49 to...which is
- 3 allocated to that unit for participation.
- 4 E-16, we have 82.98% of the coal, oil and gas,
- 5 coalbed methane interest leased. We're seeking to pool
- 6 17.02% of the coal, oil and gas, coalbed methane interest. I
- 7 have 100% of the coal interest leased below that unit. And
- 8 it's \$99,166.48 allocated to that unit.
- 9 E-17, we have 75.5758% of the coal, oil and gas,
- 10 coalbed methane interest leased. We're seeking to pool
- 11 24.4242% of the coal, oil and gas, coalbed methane interest
- 12 and we have 100% of the coal leased below that unit with a
- 13 total cost of \$69,682.61 allocated to that unit.
- 14 O. Just to illustrate for the Board the
- 15 difference in costs allocated to units. If we just...and I
- 16 think we can just compare the first two. If you look at
- 17 Exhibit G to unit D-16 or the application on D-16, it shows
- 18 that D-16 lies smack over the top of two longwall panels.
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. And basically every acre of that unit was in
- 21 longwall panels or entries and, in fact, there's even a
- 22 portion of the unit in a third longwall panel, correct?
- A. That's correct.

- 1 Q. And if you compare this then, and this the
- 2 one to which you've allocated \$286,000, correct?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. If you compare that to E-15, for example,
- 5 okay?
- A. Uh-huh.
- 7 Q. E-15, although it is in portions four
- 8 longwall panels, there's really just the tail end of those,
- 9 correct?
- 10 A. Right. Correct.
- 11 Q. And the difference in cost is explained, is
- 12 it not, by the amount of acreage in a longwall panel
- 13 collectively in a given unit?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 Q. Because production is allocated to the unit
- 16 based on acreage of the panel, longwall panel, in the unit,
- 17 correct?
- 18 A. That's right.
- 19 Q. And costs are allocated to the unit on the
- 20 same basis so that costs would track production?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. The numbers that are reported on the
- 23 Exhibits G, and hopefully it would be the same exhibit, the

- 1 same mine map, right?
- A. Uh-huh.
- 3 Q. The numbers...the little numbers there are
- 4 reported are not percentages, they're acreages, aren't they?
- 5 A. That's on the Exhibit G, that's correct.
- 6 Q. Correct. So, to do the math, basically you
- 7 would add up the acreage in a panel. Panel five, for
- 8 example, would be pretty easy to add 4.96, 17.13 and 12.63
- 9 acres and if you wanted to know how much was in a given unit,
- 10 you would take the acreage in that unit over the total and
- 11 that's the calculation that you got?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- Q. And you're essentially allocating, are you
- 14 not, the revenue strain from the panels to the units on the
- 15 same basis that you're allocating the costs?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 MARK SWARTZ: And we need to also point out to the
- 18 Board that...and I'll just give you an example again because
- 19 we're going to have to file a corrective exhibit here, I
- 20 guess, if you stay with D-16, if you look at Exhibit G it
- 21 starts with longwall ten at the north and goes to four at the
- 22 south and it shows that unit D-16 has panels nine, eight and
- 23 a little bit of seven in it and if you go to G, page one, the

- 1 numbering of the panels is wrong. The math is right.
- 2 Everything is right. It's just that we start with nine east,
- 3 or we start with eight east, instead of nine. So, we need to
- 4 go in there and just renumber. I mean, we checked the math
- 5 and it all works. But---.
- 6 SANDRA RIGGS: You're on Exhibit G, page one?
- MARK SWARTZ: Right. And that unfortunately has a
- 8 problem that showed up in the other ones as well. We should
- $9\,$ have started numbering just to stay with G, page one, on D-
- 10 16. We should have started with nine east as a panel and we
- 11 should have gone to eight and then to seven and you'll see
- 12 that we started with eight, seven, six and we need to correct
- 13 that. So, exhibit...the text exhibit does not track the map
- 14 exhibits and the map is right. So, we're going to straighten
- 15 that out. And that needs to be corrected on D-16, it looks
- 16 like E as well...E-15, 16...E-16 and probably E-17. So, it's
- 17 true of all four.
- 18 LESLIE ARRINGTON: It is. It is.
- 19 MARK SWARTZ: Yeah. That's all I have.
- 20 BENNY WAMPLER: You did say the math is correct,
- 21 though, on all of those?
- 22 MARK SWARTZ: Yes, we checked that. Yes.
- 23 (Board members confer among themselves.)

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1 MARK SWARTZ: Now, the other thing that you need to
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- 2 be sensitive to, and this is not a mistake, when you look at
- 3 some of these units that have more wells in them, the costs
- 4 that are allocated because we're eliminating it to, to the
- 5 unit, we're not including costs from some of the other
- 6 units...some of the other panels because it would then
- 7 violate that rule of only two per unit. So, if you look at
- 8 the maps, I think...let's see, this would be an example here.
- 9 A good example is E-16. That's the one with the five wells
- 10 in three different panels. But if you look at E-16, Les has
- 11 just utilized the six east panel for allocation purposes. Do
- 12 you follow me?
- BENNY WAMPLER: Do you want to run through why he
- 14 did that?
- 15 LESLIE ARRINGTON: The other ones are plugged.
- 16 BENNY WAMPLER: Okay. That's---.
- 17 DENNIS GARBIS: Say...say again.
- 18 LESLIE ARRINGTON: The other ones are plugged.
- 19 CLYDE KING: Plugged?
- 20 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes. I think...I may have one
- 21 well there that I can go to, but we haven't worked out a
- $22\,$ surface deal yet on that property. At this time, that's as

23 far as we're planning on going.

- 1 BENNY WAMPLER: Any questions from members of the
- 2 Board? Mr. Garbis?
- 3 DENNIS GARBIS: Yeah, just as a matter of
- 4 information. One would think that you would take the center
- 5 of mass basically on these longwall panels that you would try
- 6 to, I guess, center those wells.
- 7 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Okay.
- 8 DENNIS GARBIS: Why is it that that, and I'm just
- 9 comparing these over here, that you have, for example, E-16,
- 10 but you have...could you not in the case of E-16 maybe shift
- 11 it over a little bit to get something on E-15 and I can see
- 12 where it's kind of on the outer edge there? But certainly
- 13 like in E-17, you could have taken that E-16A and moved it
- 14 over. I mean, was there any...was there any other
- 15 consideration?
- 16 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes. All of these holes that you
- 17 see on that map are existing vertical ventilation holes for
- 18 the mine that we've taken over and converted them over to
- 19 coalbed methane wells.
- 20 DENNIS GARBIS: I see.
- 21 LESLIE ARRINGTON: And these wells were all
- 22 drilled...wells or ventilation holes were all drilled way
- 23 prior to the coalbed methane. They were only drilled for

- 1 ventilation interest.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Okay.
- 3 LESLIE ARRINGTON: And these also, if you'll notice,
- 4 are much narrow panels and it didn't take as many wells.
- 5 DENNIS GARBIS: So, is that an efficient spacing the
- 6 way you have that?
- 7 MARK SWARTZ: Not any more.
- 8 LESLIE ARRINGTON: No. Correct, it is not what we
- 9 use nowadays. Two things one, those panels we don't use
- 10 that with panels at all any more. I believe those are
- 11 something like 650 foot panels. We use 1,000 foot panels
- 12 now. So, no, it's not.
- MARK SWARTZ: Well, and also we'll have ten to
- 14 twelve holes per panel,
- 15 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Yes.
- 16 DENNIS GARBIS: Well, that's what I thought.
- 17 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Well, we do. We do.
- 18 MARK SWARTZ: Well, I mean, it looks a lot busier.
- 19 LESLIE ARRINGTON: This is real old mining.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Uh-huh.
- 21 MARK SWARTZ: No. The ten to twelve per panel is
- 22 driven by two things. One, the width of the panel is
- 23 greater, the length of panels are longer as well. But in

- 1 addition to that, the thinking has changed and we want the
- 2 wells to be more densely spaced for the degas. But the
- 3 current stuff, you're right. I mean, when you look at
- 4 current well spacing, it's very different and much busier
- 5 than what you're looking for.
- 6 CLYDE KING: How long have these been there? Do you
- 7 have any idea?
- 8 LESLIE ARRINGTON: I sure can. If you'll notice on
- 9 my sheet, if you'll look at date drilled---.
- 10 CLYDE KING: The '70s.
- 11 LESLIE ARRINGTON: ---you'll see '81, '79, you
- 12 know, in that vicinity. So, they have been there quite some
- 13 time.
- DENNIS GARBIS: So, what are these costs over here
- 15 if the wells have already been drilled? What are the costs?
- 16 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Well, okay, those costs are what
- 17 it would cost us to possibly redrill something there.
- 18 That's...that's the depth of that hole. The casing if we had
- 19 to set over, or beside of it and redrill it. That's what
- 20 those costs would be.
- 21 MASON BRENT: I'm still way confused on the cost
- 22 allocation. A little while ago you indicated that you
- 23 generally allocate the costs of two wells---.

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1 LESLIE ARRINGTON: I think what Mark's referring to
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- 2 there is two wells when we come in for active...just active
- 3 production or maybe gob production... I mean, sealed gob
- 4 production. We'll only allocated the costs of two wells out
- 5 there.
- 6 MARK SWARTZ: Per unit.
- 7 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Per unit per pound.
- 8 MARK SWARTZ: Right.
- 9 MASON BRENT: There may be more wells there?
- 10 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Right. There could be more.
- 11 MASON BRENT: But you're only going to allocate the
- 12 costs of two wells. And is that out of your deep well of
- 13 generosity or---.
- 14 LESLIE ARRINGTON: Well---.
- 15 MARK SWARTZ: It occurred before you were on the
- 16 Board and we had a debate with the prior Board about...I'm
- 17 not sure we had a big debate, but we certainly had some
- 18 discussions about would it be appropriate to take ten or
- 19 twelve times...because now we're drilling frac wells. If
- 20 you'll notice, these are on 120, 130s are not frac wells.
- 21 So, they're less expensive. But, you know, would it be
- 22 appropriate to take ten or twelve wells times 200,000 and
- 23 change and load all of that on to the panel or the units that

- 1 intersect the panel. The Board had a lot of heartburn with
- 2 that, or at least we saw that coming, I think, and we
- 3 proposed that we not allocate more than two wells to a given
- 4 unit per panel for high density wells. So, the situation
- 5 here, we've got five wells in the unit, the most that you're
- 6 going to see land on the costs from us is two. And that
- 7 seemed to be a compromise that the prior Board was
- 8 comfortable with. So, we just sort of continued that. I
- 9 won't say that we...I'm not sure...I don't think that any of
- 10 you all were---.
- MASON BRENT: So, if you...if you saw this Board
- 12 here as being easy, then you could come back now and allocate
- 13 the cost of five wells or propose to allocate the cost of
- 14 five wells or whatever? I mean, there's no...there's no
- 15 regulation or legislation---?
- 16 MARK SWARTZ: There's no...there's no order that is
- 17 binding on anybody. But we have...we are not...I have not
- 18 concluded that Benny and Sandy's memory banks have been
- 19 erased and there is a---.
- 20 SANDRA RIGGS: And we couldn't find the transcript.
- 21 MARK SWARTZ: And I think there is a historical
- 22 awareness on some of the people in this room with regard to
- 23 those kinds of issues. But you're absolutely right. I mean,

- 1 we're not bound by some Board order that says you must do
- 2 this, or you can't do that, or it's a judgment call we made
- 3 way back when that everybody got comfortable with.
- 4 MASON BRENT: That's interesting. Okay, then the
- 5 other thing that is causing my confusion. You then went on
- 6 to explain an allocation of costs based on acreage. I'm
- 7 trying to reconcile---.

- 9 MARK SWARTZ: Right. The Oakwood II Field Rules,
- 10 when they were implemented, there's a...I don't think we have
- 11 any orders handy, but there's a...there's a section in the
- 12 Board orders that you typically would enter that says if this
- 13 is a frac unit, this is how you allocate. If it's a frac
- 14 unit that becomes an active gob unit, this is how you
- 15 allocate it and it's expressed in your field rules and it
- 16 gets now lifted into your orders. And essentially what it
- 17 says, the field rules establishes the allocation. It just
- 18 gets repeated in the order. Then the field rules say that
- 19 for a frac...once a frac unit has a longwall panel under it
- 20 that is isolated from the coal generally by the entries, at
- 21 that point, that panel shifts from a unit allocation of the
- 22 production from a well into that panel. Prior to isolation
- 23 of a longwall panel, 100% of the gas from a well in a unit

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1 that happened to penetrate a non-isolated longwall panel
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- $2\,$ would be allocated entirely to the unit in which the well was
- 3 located. Once you isolate the...I'm explaining rather than
- 4 quoting. But once you isolate a longwall panel that may run
- 5 under through your four units, at that point the wells
- 6 penetrating the coal in the panel, the total production of
- 7 the number of wells is aggregate. You then calculate the
- 8 acreage in the panel overall. You then calculate the acreage
- 9 in any given unit and create a percentage of acres of a panel
- 10 in a unit. You then take the aggregate production, take the
- 11 percentage that you calculated, apply that to the production
- 12 and then that production lands in that unit regardless of
- 13 where the well may be located from which the production or
- 14 well is from...in which the production occurs. So, what we
- 15 have done since that's how we allocate production, we have
- 16 attempted in these active gob units...we haven't attempted,
- 17 we have allocated costs exactly the same. So, we've tried to

- 18 track...this is going to be.....the check you write to this
- 19 is going to be the check how we calculate the check you
- 20 receive with a cavot that we're not including all of our
- 21 costs because we feel as if we might get an argument.
- 22 MASON BRENT: Okay. Thank you.
- BENNY WAMPLER: Mr. Garbis?

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1 DENNIS GARBIS: In looking at this arrangement, I
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- 2 haven't...I'm trying to see if there's anybody would be more
- 3 fairly compensated based on this arrangement than people in
- 4 other units. For example, if you take E-15, their...your
- 5 costs are \$31,425, so how...what sort of production are you
- 6 going to lay to it? I mean, how are...how are the people
- 7 going to be...would there be any production for them?
- 8 Obviously not, since you don't have a well.
- 9 MARK SWARTZ: Well, let me give you an example---.
- 10 DENNIS GARBIS: So, am I missing something here
- 11 or---.
- MARK SWARTZ: Let me just...let me just give you
- 13 an---.
- 14 SANDRA RIGGS: They'll get their proportionate share
- 15 from the longwall panel.
- 16 MARK SWARTZ: Well, turn the page. Turn the page to
- 17 the...okay. And look at E-15's percentage in panel six,
- 18 okay, which is 12%. Okay? 12 1/2%, do you see that?
- 19 DENNIS GARBIS: I'm looking at E-15.
- 20 MARK SWARTZ: Because I'm going to try to compare
- 21 E-15 and E-16 for you.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Yes. Okay.
- 23 MARK SWARTZ: So, look at E-15s percentage in

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- 1 longwall panel six.
- DENNIS GARBIS: I've got it.
- MARK SWARTZ: Okay. Then look at E-16s percentage
- 4 in six.
- 5 DENNIS GARBIS: All right.
- 6 MARK SWARTZ: They've got roughly three plus times
- 7 the interest. So, that's why the cost is so different.
- 8 They've got \$31,000 allocated to E-15 for longwall panel six
- 9 and three times that allocated to E-16 because E-16 is going
- 10 to get, you know, three times...I'm just focusing on that one
- 11 panel.
- 12 DENNIS GARBIS: Okay.
- MARK SWARTZ: But that's the way the production
- 14 tracks the cost allegation.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Now, when it comes for pay up time,
- 16 how...who's going to get...are you going to go basically the
- 17 same---?
- MARK SWARTZ: Remember, you're getting...we...these
- 19 capital costs are not implemented or included in a royalty
- 20 calculation at all.
- 21 DENNIS GARBIS: I understand that. I understand
- 22 that.
- MARK SWARTZ: So, the stream of income is...this is

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- 1 irrelevant.
- DENNIS GARBIS: I understand that.
- 3 MARK SWARTZ: Okay. I'm sorry, then.
- 4 DENNIS GARBIS: So---.
- 5 BENNY WAMPLER: Unless you participate.
- 6 MARK SWARTZ: Right. But I felt like we weren't
- 7 headed there.
- 8 DENNIS GARBIS: No, I got that part. But...okay, so
- 9 now would you use the same percentages as far as production
- 10 from that---?
- MARK SWARTZ: Right.
- 12 DENNIS GARBIS: ---from that panel? In other
- 13 words, I guess, we're looking at six. So, the two wells
- 14 there CBM east 16A-53 and the other ones is not. Do
- 15 those...do those two---?
- 16 MARK SWARTZ: No. Yeah. Let's just assume there
- 17 were two...okay. Okay.
- 18 DENNIS GARBIS: In 16, aren't there two wells in
- 19 panel six.
- 20 MARK SWARTZ: Yeah, in panel six there's just two
- 21 wells. You're right. Okay.
- 22 DENNIS GARBIS: So, basically the production from
- 23 those two wells you'll add...whatever that number is you add

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1 them up and then---.
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- 2 MARK SWARTZ: Right.
- 3 DENNIS GARBIS: ---you'll proportionally divide it
- 4 again between---.
- 5 MARK SWARTZ: You just multiply it.
- 6 DENNIS GARBIS: I'm sorry.
- 7 MARK SWARTZ: You multiply it, right.
- 8 DENNIS GARBIS: Yeah. I mean, so you'll...well
- 9 between panels E-15, E-16 and E-17 because you've got a
- 10 little bit of---?
- 11 MARK SWARTZ: Well---.
- DENNIS GARBIS: ---when you've got 5.08 acres?
- MARK SWARTZ: No, it's different for every panel.
- 14 Okay, what...there would be a...you're on the right tract,
- 15 but you've got to do it three times. Let's start with---.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Yeah...okay, yeah, I understand
- 17 that.
- MARK SWARTZ: Okay.
- 19 DENNIS GARBIS: I just used panel six, you know,
- 20 to---.
- 21 MARK SWARTZ: But we've got to do the same
- $22\,$ calculation for seven, the same for six, and the same for
- 23 five.

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1 DENNIS GARBIS: Right. Right. I understand that.
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- 2 MARK SWARTZ: Okay.
- 3 DENNIS GARBIS: So, that's basically that's how they
- 4 would...the people in unit E-15, that's how they would get
- 5 their money proportionally from that only in a panel area,
- 6 not the whole grid.
- 7 SANDRA RIGGS: Right.
- 8 DENNIS GARBIS: Okay.
- 9 MARK SWARTZ: But everybody who has an interest in
- 10 E-15, even though their tract may not be over the longwall
- 11 panel, shares in the revenue.
- 12 DENNIS GARBIS: Right.
- MARK SWARTZ: Just-.
- 14 DENNIS GARBIS: That's right.
- MARK SWARTZ: Okay.
- DENNIS GARBIS: I just want to...I'm trying to
- 17 figure out if there's somebody that's getting---.
- MARK SWARTZ: Posed.
- 19 DENNIS GARBIS: I didn't want to...that's your
- 20 choice of words.
- 21 MARK SWARTZ: It's a legal term.
- DENNIS GARBIS: Is that a legal term, posed?
- 23 MARK SWARTZ: Yeah. Yeah.

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1 DENNIS GARBIS: Good word.
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- 2 MARK SWARTZ: Well, what we did and I bet there
- 3 are---.
- 4 DENNIS GARBIS: Or is...ultimately is there a fair
- 5 way? I don't know. Maybe somebody can... I don't know if
- 6 there's a fair way to do it. I don't know. I'm just trying
- 7 to attempt to be---.
- 8 SANDRA RIGGS: Well, under correlative rights, I
- 9 think, the definition of correlative rights is that everybody
- 10 gets their fair share. Everybody within the unit gets their
- 11 fair share of production.
- 12 DENNIS GARBIS: Right.
- MARK SWARTZ: Well, where this came from and there
- 14 may be other ways to do this, okay, I can tell you where the
- 15 concept came from. If we just had a frac unit to go up...you
- 16 know, go to... I guess we don't have an example of one here
- 17 that doesn't have something in it. But a frac unit where we
- 18 had one well and no mining under it. The way those people
- 19 would share that is you would take the tracts and you'd say
- 20 all right, you've got 3 acres out of the 80. You've got 20
- 21 acres out of the 80 and you do the math.
- 22 DENNIS GARBIS: Right.
- 23 MARK SWARTZ: And you only had one well and you just

- 1 split the 80 acres on their percentage of surface interest in
- $2\,$ the 80 acres and that's how the income stream was pro-rated.
- 3 DENNIS GARBIS: Right.
- 4 MARK SWARTZ: And we just literally took that
- 5 concept and applied it to these panels.
- 6 DENNIS GARBIS: Okay.
- 7 MARK SWARTZ: I mean, that's...that's the genesis in
- 8 front of this Board as to how this got from point A to point
- 9 B and I'm not suggesting that in any of this that there's
- 10 just the one answer. I mean, I'm sure we could have done
- 11 something different---.
- DENNIS GARBIS: So, as an example in E-17, even
- 13 though there's one well in panel seven, the individuals with
- 14 the individual ownership in panel... I mean, in E-17 would
- 15 benefit obviously if panel six and five---.
- MARK SWARTZ: And four.
- 17 DENNIS GARBIS: Yes, and four also.
- MARK SWARTZ: Right. You bet.
- 19 DENNIS GARBIS: They would get---.
- 20 MARK SWARTZ: That's why I said earlier that...and
- 21 it's not as obvious here, but in a lot of...a lot of times
- 22 you'll have some odd intersections of surface units with the
- 23 underground mining and it's really common for people to

- 1 receive production when there's no well in their unit at all.
- 2 I mean, at all, you know, and you can sort of see some of
- 3 that going on here. But these panels kind of hit a little
- 4 differently. But there are many, many instances where people
- 5 are getting paid money that there's no well on their surface
- 6 within their unit at all.
- 7 DENNIS GARBIS: So, I guess...I guess that's fair.
- 8 I couldn't...I couldn't improve on it. So---.
- 9 BENNY WAMPLER: Well, we have dirty in this as well.
- 10 We've had a lot of discussion early on about ways of making
- 11 sure that everyone---.
- 12 DENNIS GARBIS: Yeah.
- 13 MR. STREET: ---you know, would come up with the
- 14 square units versus circles, everyone gets paid if they're
- 15 anywhere in there and, you know, you can go back and forth on
- 16 should you allow these well costs, if they didn't incur those
- 17 well costs today and these kinds of things. There's a lot of
- 18 things like that within that you can debate. But when you
- 19 take the snap shot down...looking down on that anything
- 20 occurs, I don't think anyone is getting left out.
- 21 DENNIS GARBIS: Yeah, and I think as long as it's
- 22 consistent, then it's fair. That's the important thing.
- 23 BENNY WAMPLER: And the people that should decide to

- 1 participate or be carried to come in here and debate the
- 2 costs and we haven't had...with the Board, I'm saying. The
- 3 other folks aren't be harmed by the cost anyway.
- 4 DENNIS GARBIS: Right. Yeah. Yeah, we went through
- 5 that.
- 6 BENNY WAMPLER: I'm not trying to argue the
- 7 position. I'm just saying that's the rationale we went
- 8 through in buying into the whole thing here is get the
- 9 development and the distribution ---.
- 10 CLYDE KING: So, basically all the property above
- 11 the well, the acreage?
- 12 BENNY WAMPLER: Above the unit...within the unit.
- MARK SWARTZ: Just from this side of the table, just
- 14 to kind of close up, there is no answer to any of this stuff.
- 15 It's all, you know, what seems like a policy that makes
- 16 sense in their...you know, what's going underground when you
- 17 start fracing wells, they don't frac in squares or
- 18 rectangles, you know. I mean, this is all a---.
- 19 DENNIS GARBIS: It's not a perfect world.
- 20 MARK SWARTZ: You bet. And this is a construct to
- 21 accomplish some legislative policies that the law sort of
- 22 said these are the things you need to consider and so in
- 23 reality, underground, it wasn't on the list, you know. So,

- 1 I...and we really spent a fair amount of time in the
- 2 beginning sort of learning that although you needed to attend
- 3 to what's going on underground, the legislature was more
- 4 concerned about who was getting paid on the surface.
- 5 DENNIS GARBIS: You made up the rules as you went
- 6 along and did a good job.
- 7 SANDRA RIGGS: Well, the process of allocation has
- $8\,$ been adopted through field rules and this is the Oakwood II
- 9 Field rule that talks about this method of allocation. And
- 10 while it doesn't address how many wells...the cost of what
- 11 wells will be allocated on the costs side, it does address
- 12 the production side, how you'll allocate the production.
- MARK SWARTZ: Right.
- 14 SANDRA RIGGS: And what he's saying today is they
- 15 adopted the same formula for allocating costs as the field
- 16 rules require that they adopt in allocating production to be
- 17 consistent.
- 18 BENNY WAMPLER: Any other questions? Good question.
- MARK SWARTZ: He just...you know, when he comes, he
- 20 makes everybody work, you know. He just---.
- 21 DENNIS GARBIS: I'm a pushover. I'm so easy.
- 22 (Everyone laughs.)
- DENNIS GARBIS: In my younger days, I was really

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feisty.
              BENNY WAMPLER: Do you have anything further?
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3
              MARK SWARTZ: I'm all set.
4
              BENNY WAMPLER: Is there a motion to approve these?
5
              CLYDE KING: So move.
6
              BENNY WAMPLER: Is there a second?
7
              MASON BRENT: I second.
8
              BENNY WAMPLER: Motion and second. Any further
9
  discussion?
10
              (No audible response.)
11
              BENNY WAMPLER: All in favor, signify by saying yes.
12
              (All members signify yes.)
13
              BENNY WAMPLER: Opposed, say no.
14
              (No audible response.)
15
              BENNY WAMPLER: You have approval.
16
              MARK SWARTZ: Thank you all.
17
              BENNY WAMPLER: That concludes today's business,
   Bob, unless you have anything further?
19
              (Bob Wilson indicates negatively.)
20
              BENNY WAMPLER: Thank you all. Thank you very much.
21
    Have a safe trip home.
22
23
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1 STATE OF VIRGINIA,
2 COUNTY OF BUCHANAN, to-wit:
3
             I, Sonya Michelle Brown, Court Reporter and Notary
4 Public for the State of Virginia, do hereby certify that the
5 foregoing hearing was recorded by me on a tape recording
6 machine and later transcribed by me personally.
7
             Given under my hand and seal on this the 6th day of
8 February, 2001.
9
10
                                   NOTARY PUBLIC
11
   My commission expires: August 31, 2001.
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